Claim 3, line 1, cancel "or 2".

Sub C2

5. (Amended) A method for producing an ultra high molecular weight polyethylene molded article having orientation of crystal planes in a direction parallel to a compression plane, comprising slightly crosslinking the ultra high molecular weight polyethylene molded article by irradiating the article with a high energy ray and thereby introducing a very small amount of crosslinking points into molecular chains of the article, then heating the crosslinked ultra high molecular weight polyethylene molded article up to a compression deformable temperature, compression-deforming the article, and then cooling the article while keeping the article in a deformed state.

C2

Sub C3

9. (Amended) An ultra high molecular weight polyethylene molded article having orientation of crystal planes in a direction parallel to a compression plane, said article produced by slightly crosslinking the ultra high molecular weight polyethylene molded article by irradiating the article with a high energy ray and thereby introducing a very small amount of crosslinking points into molecular chains of the article, then heating the crosslinked ultra high molecular weight polyethylene molded article up to a compression deformable temperature, compression-deforming the article, and then cooling the article while keeping the article in a deformed state.

C3

Add the following claims:

10. Artificial joint for implantation in a joint of an animal comprising an ultra high molecular weight polyethylene molded article having orientation of crystal planes in a direction parallel to a compression plane, wherein the molded article is crosslinked slightly.

11. Artificial joint for implantation in a joint of an animal comprising an ultra high molecular weight polyethylene molded article having orientation of crystal planes in a direction parallel to a compression plane, wherein the molded article is crosslinked slightly and the melting point of the molded article is 135° to 155°C.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct an apparent typographical error. Claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to further clarify the concepts of the present invention. Among other things, the subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 2 has been cancelled. In addition, the subject matter of claim 4 has been rewritten as newly added claims 10 and 11 where claim 11 also includes the subject matter of claim 3. Accordingly, claim 4 has been cancelled.

It is submitted that these amendments to the claims are helpful in distinguishing the subject claims over the cited prior art and do not raise new issues which would require further consideration and/or search. In addition, it is submitted that such amendments place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal.